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ABSTRACT

This demographic analysis of the Hispanic community in Massachusetts provides human service and community development organizations, as well as government officials, with program planning and policy formation information. Findings about population trends in the Hispanic community are that Hispanics are the fastest growing group in the American population and their growth in Massachusetts is nearly twice the national rate. Given the size and growth of this population, it is important to systematically gather information and develop mechanisms for planning and policy development. Demographic characteristics include the following: (1) preponderance of families with young children and headed by women; (2) low educational attainment; (3) substandard housing; (4) Spanish speaking; (5) low voter registration; (6) residentially stable; (7) high unemployment rate; (8) employment in low-wage positions and unstable industries; and (9) constitute a poor working class with majority below poverty level; and (10) low political participation. Needs include the following: (1) health and day care services; (2) compensatory education and training programs; (3) affordable housing; (4) bilingual and English-as-a-Second-Language (ESL) programs; (5) voter registration; (6) vocational training; (7) additional research on employment patterns; (8) availability and use of human service programs; (9) political participation. Statistical data are included on 20 charts and graphs. Details of the data analysis are discussed in the appendices. (FMW)

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